

The Staples logo, featuring the word "STAPLES" in a bold, sans-serif font, is positioned in the top left corner of the document. The logo is contained within a dark, rectangular box with a slightly textured appearance.

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**General Assembly of the State of Connecticut  
Joint Committee on Energy and Technology**

**Hearings on HB 6635 – An Act Concerning Solar Power  
Testimony of Mark Buckley  
Vice President of Environmental Affairs  
Staples, Inc.**

**March 10, 2009**

Senator Fonfara, Assemblywoman Nardello, and members of the Joint Committee on Energy and Technology, it is a pleasure to submit this testimony in support of HB 6635, "An Act Concerning Solar Power". I am Mark Buckley, Vice President of Environmental Affairs for Staples, Inc. Staples is the largest operator of superstores in the world, with over 2,000 stores worldwide, including 45 facilities here in Connecticut. We sell office products and services to consumers of all sizes from home based businesses to Fortune 500 companies. We employ over 1,100 people in Connecticut and are an important and growing part of the state's economy and tax base.

My role at Staples is to help develop and drive sustainable business practices for our internal operations and help develop sustainable products and services for our customers. Our sustainable initiatives are focused in four key areas or cornerstones - offering eco-friendly products; waste reduction and recycling; energy and climate; and environmental education for customers. We are committed to continuous improvement in all of these areas because we believe that sustainability is both good for the environment and good for business.

For Staples, energy depletion and climate change are the greatest environmental priorities because they are global in scope and impact communities and ecosystems. They directly and indirectly affect food, water and other valuable natural resources. They also affect many aspects of global economies and supply chains. Everything in product and service lifecycles - from raw materials to production to logistics to end-of-use - are connected in some way to energy and/or carbon intensity. Change will require global efforts, commitments and collaboration on a scale and scope never before seen.



Given these powerful environmental and economic motivations, we at Staples are interested in replicating the success of our Killingly solar installation across our entire chain of 38 Connecticut superstores. The reality, however, is that although the cost gap is closing quickly, solar power is still somewhat more expensive than conventional supply. Short term incentives are necessary to monetize the environmental advantages of renewable energy and to offset the generous subsidies afforded more mature energy technologies. The grants offered through the Clean Energy Fund have done just that.

Unfortunately, as this Committee is all too painfully aware, CCEF funding for solar energy has been exhausted, stymieing businesses like Staples from pursuing these win-win energy opportunities. Lacking sufficient funding, CCEF has been unable to move forward with our pending applications and we have been discouraged from pursuing additional opportunities in this state.

We urge the legislature to pass HB 6635 as a means of enabling area businesses to invest in clean, stable-priced, reliable and homegrown solar energy solutions. Short-term incentives for solar energy is precisely the kind of public-private partnership that is necessary to retain and grow Connecticut's economy in these turbulent times and align business interests with the economic and environmental interests of the citizens of the state at large.

Thank you for allowing me to address this committee.

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